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# BIBLIOGRAPHY

## III. HISTORICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

The purpose of this department, as outlined in the first number of the REVIEW, has been to introduce the student of American Church History to the principles and practices of the science itself. So far, seven papers have been published in these pages, and we have come far enough on our way to afford a moment for retrospection. To gather from the books already published on Method, on Introduction, on Historical Research, and on Historical Bibliography, the elements of a Guide or Manual for the direction of the student, and to place in the hands of the student who has chosen for his special field of research-work the history of the Catholic Church in the United States, a Manual containing an Introduction and a Guide to the source-material of his subject is a task which, although successfully carried out by scholars in other branches of historical activity, is by no means easy of accomplishment. Such a Manual should be confined as far as possible, to the strict needs of the student. Those needs may be summed up in various ways. Collins, following the plan of Langlois-Seignobos, has treated them under two heads in his *Study of Ecclesiastical History*: namely, the Process of Analysis and the Process of Synthesis. The work of Analysis usually consists of two distinct operations: (1) Collection of the Material, "which may be of all kinds: actual vestiges of the past, pictures, engravings, inscriptions, laws, canons, state papers, letters, narratives of eye-witnesses, chronicles, poems, sermons, treatises, and so forth, according to the nature of the subject." (2) Examination of the Documents, which must be taken one by one and carefully appraised. The work of Synthesis is the process of uniting into narrative form the isolated facts found in the analytical process. The student has "to draw together this digested and critically appraised material, to reintegrate it with the help of the insight he has acquired in the process of analyzing it, and to reconstruct out of the chaotic elements before him a narrative of events which shall be absolutely faithfully to this evidence and yet not merely jejune and skeleton-like." There are, naturally, many systems of approaching this problem of method in historical research, but all meet upon the common ground of the conditions governing the scientific procedure of historical work in its three basic operations—research, criticism, and composition. The proposed Manual, which has already been suggested in these pages, may be constructed on the following tentative plan:

### **I. Research Work.**—Search for the Materials (Heuristics).

#### **I.** Introduction to the Historical Method.

#### **II.** The Auxiliary Sciences.

#### **III.** Historical Bibliography.

### **II. Historical Criticism.**—Analysis of the Materials.

#### **I.** External Criticism (Provenance)

##### **1.** Testing the Genuineness of the Source.

##### **2.** Localizing it in time and place.

##### **3.** Analyzing, editing, or restoring it.

## II. Internal Criticism (Exegesis).

1. Determining the Value of the Source.
2. Interpreting its contents.
3. Establishing the historicity of its facts.

## III. Historical Composition.—Synthetic operations.

1. General and Special Historical works.
2. Monographs.
3. Historical Dissertations.
4. Publication of Sources, etc., etc.

So far, our papers have covered in a brief and concise way the questions of Historical Introduction and the Auxiliary Sciences. This present paper on Historical Bibliography completes the first group of subjects which must be treated under the general heading of Heuristics, or the search for the Source-Material.

A tentative definition of Historical Bibliography would embrace three elements: the different classes of source-material, the different instruments of research, and the practical organization of research-work. The science of Historical Bibliography has for its object to indicate the method to be followed, and the helps to be used, in research-work. The different classes of research-material may be roughly divided into Sources and Historical Works. Sources may be either narrative, documentary, literary, or archeological. Historical Works may be either general or special; that is, without any given limits, or, restricted to the limits of time, place, and idea. The instruments of bibliographical research may be Guides, Manuals, Repertories, Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, or Bibliographies, all of which are destined to enable the student to learn quickly and accurately what source-material exists upon any given subject, and to suggest to his imagination other possible *dépôts* for such material. To take a practical example: let us suppose that a student has chosen for his subject, *The Rise of the Catholic Hierarchy in the United States (1763–1808)*. His first duty is to understand clearly the limits of time, place and idea contained in that title. He must understand why the years 1763–1808 are selected. He must visualize graphically either in his mind or upon a map which he has drawn up specially for that purpose, the extent of the "United States" during those years. He must have a very definite idea of what he means by the term—*Rise of the Catholic Hierarchy*. Following the simplest division of bibliographical helps—Repertories, Didactic Books, and Periodicals, a search through the articles cognate to his subject in the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, for example, would give him a more or less clear idea of the subject and would introduce him to the historical works on the subject. These he would quickly learn are either general or special. A general work would be SHEA, *History of the Catholic Church in the United States*, Vol. ii (*Life and Times of Archbishop Carroll*), New York, 1888; a special work would be RUSSELL, *Maryland, the Land of Sanctuary* (Baltimore, 1907). Both these works would lead him into the realm of source-material, and by diligent search, he would soon draw up a bibliographical list of all the printed and unprinted material for his subject. For printed material the student would find as indispensable, the Roman Documents on the question published

by Professor Haskins in the *American Historical Review*, Vol. xv (1910), pp. 800-29—*Documents relative to the adjustment of the Roman Catholic organization in the United States*. A further search would reveal the translation of these documents by Father Devitt, S.J., in the *Records* of the American Catholic Historical Society, Vol. xxi (1910), pp. 185-236. Step by step, the student would clear a pathway for himself through all the printed material on his subject, and would bring his researches up to date by ransacking all the historical periodicals in order to make sure that he had missed nothing for his subject. There would remain still the real field of his research work—the unprinted material. With the aid, for example, of the *Carnegie Guides* he would be quickly put in possession with the location of this material, and personal search in such collections as the Baltimore Archdiocesan Archives, the Westminster (London) Archdiocesan Archives, and other local collections, such as those at Georgetown University, and the Catholic Archives of America (Notre Dame University), would round out his researches. With photograph-copies from Rome, Paris, Simancas, and Seville, of all documents bearing on his subject, the next problem would be the practical method of putting all this material into shape for the work of Historical Criticism, and later, of Historical Composition. These two operations will be treated briefly in subsequent papers. We confine ourselves now to some general directions for Historical Bibliography, again restricting it to the field of American Church History.

The bibliographical helps for Ecclesiastical History in general, or what are called the *Instruments de travail*, are entirely too numerous to be mentioned in detail. It will suffice to say to the student who has a definite object in view in his research-work that with a little systematic effort, he can sieve the whole realm of source and book material in such a way as to be practically certain that nothing has escaped his notice. The Instruments of Bibliographical Research ready for his use are usually divided as follows:

### **I. General Bibliographies** (for all the sciences).

1. Universal bibliographies.
2. Historical bibliographies.
3. Chronological bibliographies.

### **II. Special Bibliographies** (for a particular science. We restrict our division to Bibliographies for the Historical Sciences).

1. Bibliographies of the historical method.
2. Bibliographies of the auxiliary sciences.
3. Bibliographies of the philosophy of history.
4. Bibliographies of the universal history.
5. Bibliographies of the particular history.
  - A. Bibliography of general history.
  - B. Bibliography of special history (Institutions).
    - (a) Constitutional or political history.
    - (b) Law.
    - (c) Economic problems.
    - (d) Literature.
    - (e) Art.
    - (f) Sociology.
    - (g) Religion.

Under this last division of Religious History, which, in general, is the history of the different creeds of humanity, we have in a restricted sense Ecclesiastical History, or the History of the Christian Church. The only noteworthy attempt to cover the whole field of Ecclesiastical History from the bibliographical viewpoint is the work of CHARLES DE SMEDT, S.J., *Introductio Generalis ad Historiam Ecclesiasticam* (Ghent, 1876). The modern text-books, especially those of Hergenröther and Funk, contain bibliographical references in abundance; but no complete Bibliography of Ecclesiastical History, containing a systematic guidance for the student, has ever been published. The reason is obvious. One has only to make use of CHEVALIER, *Répertoire des sources historiques du Moyen Age* (Paris, 4 vols., 1879-99), to realize that it is folly for any one scholar to attempt such a work. Each student of ecclesiastical history is, practically speaking, obliged to make his own set of cards. Beginning with a Universal Bibliography, such as STEIN, *Manuel de Bibliographie Général* (Paris, 1897), the student quickly sees that the first, and one might say, the indispensable, volume for his desk is LANGLOIS, *Manuel de Bibliographie Historique* (Paris, 1904). With the aid of Langlois, he learns the best book to be consulted for General Bibliography (Catalogues, Collections, Repertories, Periodicals, etc.), and is further orientated into the field of National Bibliography. Here he learns that what Pirenne, Monod, Dahlmann-Waitz, Wattenbach, Gross, and Altamira have done for other countries, the authors of the *Guide to American History* have done for the United States. With this last volume in his hands, he can quickly learn the best books on any subject of American History from the three viewpoints of time, place, and idea. Beyond this, there is but little scientific guidance. Such necessary works as:

1. *Collections of Printed Sources for American Church History.*
2. *Guide to the Source-Material for American Church History.*
3. *Bibliographia Americana Catholica*, containing lists of books for the study of American Church History

are not in existence, and it becomes a matter of personal direction on the part of the teacher. This grand lacuna might be avoided if each parish priest were to collect all the source-material for the history of his own town and parish; if each bishop were to found a Diocesan Library containing all the published books which in any way deal with his Diocese; if a National Catholic Library were to be instituted containing all the source-material for American Church History. Then a select Bibliography could be compiled. In the next issue, the books dealing with the question of *Historical Criticism* will be discussed.

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